



Metropolitan Community Church of Portland

N.E. 24th & Broadway • Portland, Oregon 97232

281-8868

REV. DONALD C. BORBE
PASTOR

January 11, 1980

REV. ARLENE J. ACKERMAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Personal & Confidential

To All MCC Pastors:

The Pastoral Staff of MCC Portland feel it important to inform you that a woman (who was befriended by many in our congregation) may come to your church and, perhaps, request housing.

It has been reported to us by members of our congregation who provided shelter for her that credit cards, a welfare check, etc., were stolen from them. Also, we understand that one of our congregations on the east coast had a similar experience with her.

It is entirely possible that she is seeking another church in hopes of finding someone who may house her. Also, she is wanted by the courts here in Oregon for possession of a stolen vehicle.

Following is her description and a partial list of aliases:

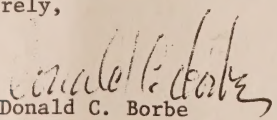
Diane Therse Binda
Diane Therse Adams
Diane Adams Kelly

Donna Jean Dube
Dona Jean Duben
Doni Gene Walker

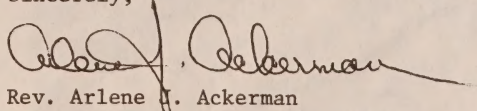
Height: Approx. 4'10" Hair: Light Brown to Dark Brown (may have tints of red)
Medium to heavy built Fair olive skin - Mexican descent Speaks with slight Boston accent
Dark Brown eyes May have a white American Eskimo dog also know as a Spintz.

Should she come to your church, please call Rev. Arlene J. Ackerman at 503-281-8861.

Sincerely,


Rev. Donald C. Borbe
Pastor - Portland MCC

Sincerely,


Rev. Arlene J. Ackerman
Assistant Pastor - Portland MCC

DCB:AJA:pn



From the desk of

HERB SHANNON

June 4, 1979

Dear Marge:

Thank you for your letter and
a-ttachments received this AM.

I have read it several times with
considerable interest, will turn it
over to the Pulpit Committee and
can assure you it will receive their
most careful consideration.

Hope to see you soon and may God
Blass.

Herb Shannon



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June 12, 1979

Rev. Elder John Hose
Metropolitan Community Church - Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Papa John:

I gather by now you have made your switch to Atlanta and are settled in. How are things going? How are they taking to you?

I have a favor to ask? I understand that M.C.A.C. requires three letters of recommendation from ordained ministers in the Fellowship for ordination. Our district is short on ordained ministers at present. We have Ed and Jose. I wonder if you would do me the honor of writing a letter of recommendation to the M.C.A.C., since originally you were our district's liaison elder and probably know me a little better than Nancy does -- in spite of the fact that she has been our liaison elder for the past year or so. We have seen very little of each other and have had very little interaction. You and I go back a long way, and I think you know me about as well as anyone on the Board of Elders does.

Do you know that I am in process of moving to California? Jean and I have decided to try to restore our relationship, we miss each other, and hope with counseling to be able to retain what is good and try to cure what was bad, but we are neither of us happy without the other -- me more than Jean. I really love that woman, and I miss her dreadfully. Anyway, Jeri Harvey (bless her heart) has offered me a place on staff at the mother church. Meanwhile, I have candidated for Pomona (with Jeri's blessing) but they will not make a decision for some time yet, probably not until after Conference when they will have a chance to meet other candidates. I had an opportunity to preach for them and meet with their board while I was in California. I also candidated for All Saints, at least by mail. I liked the group at Pomona, and I think they liked me. I also loved California. I do not like New England that well, and the southerner in me misses sun and heat and all that kind of stuff. P.J., I am too old for New England winters!

Anyway, I am off to California. I hope things work out while we are there. I shall give it my best.

June 12, 1979

Rev. Elder John Rose
Metropolitan Community Church - Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Papa John:

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May 21, 1979

Mr. Herb Shannon
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Herb:

Thanks for the opportunity to talk with you while I was in California -- I not only enjoyed our talk, but felt your warmth and interest in me as a person. Thanks for that.

Enclosed is my resume, which pretty well sets out what I have done in the past twenty years. You will note the overlap of education and medical experience. I am still going that way: I just went back to work at the New England Medical Center, a community hospital in Boston, where I commute each day from Providence. That ought to pay my way West by July.

Also enclosed in the evaluation by my church that was done this year for relicensing. I think it will give you an idea of the kind of approach I take and how people react to it. There are also some newspaper articles which were in Boston and Providence papers and which give some idea of community reaction.

I hope this is enough. The tape will be on its way, as soon as I can get it copied.

Thanks for your interest. God bless you all. And I will see you the first week in August.

In Christ's Love,

Marge Ragona, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church
of Providence

mfr

May 21, 1979

Mr. Herb Shannon
University Fellowship of
Methodist Community Church
5305 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Herb:

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and interest in me as a person. Thanks for that.

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I just went back to work at the New England Medical Center, a
community hospital in Boston, where I commute each day from
Providence. That ought to say my way West by July.

Also enclosed in the envelope by my church that was done
this year for fellowship. I think it will give you an idea
of the kind of approach I take and how people react to it.
There are also some newspaper articles which were in Boston and
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I hope this is enough. The tape will be on its way, as soon as
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Thanks for your interest. God bless you all. And I will see
you the first week in August.

In Christ's Love,

Margaret Hanson, Pastor
Methodist Community Church
of Providence

mlp

May 30, 1979

Dear David:

Just a note to bring you up to date on what's been going on here in Providence: I am heading for California on July 31st to pick up my relationship with Jean -- for me that is particularly good news. I have candidated for both Pomona and All Saints and have heard zinch from either one. However, I have been accepted on staff at the mother church, MCC LaA. when I arrive, so I won't be wasted!

Providence therefore is in the midst of trying to find a replacement, and tonight we are having a board meeting to try to decide upon a Worship Coordinator. So far the front runners are Carl Cornish -- who has shaped up into a really great exhorter -- and Belle Pellegrino. Phil got himself into some trouble over Paul (brought charges and then wouldn't stay and face Paul when we brought him upon the charges.) He pretty well dropped out of the church after that, except that now that we need a worship coordinator, he is trying to bring a divisiveness to the group by siding with Michael O'Malley who says -- and this is a direct quote -- "I don't want no nigger running my church." I was surprised by both Michael and Phil's attitude, since Carl is one of the most decent human beings I've met, bright and capable and loving. Lots of people are on Carl's side in this, and so I don't think there will be a real problem. As a matter of fact, I think it's a tribute to their maturity that they are still in favor of Carl despite the attempt to bring a racial division into it. We'll know better after tonight. You might share the information about Phil with Gil, if you will, since it has disappointed me terribly with Phil.

We are in our usual lousy financial situation, this being post-Easter and early summer slump, but I think we can work our way out of it by July, especially if we do all the things people are planning. We had a kind of mini-Operation Resurrection at the exhorter's meeting and have a number of goodies going, including a Casino night. I would have nothing to do with that -- my Baptist background, you know -- and the exhorters and deacons are handling it. They are also planning a giant testimonial dinner on my 50th birthday -- and I hope we have a good crowd for that.

How are you doing? Are you working? Going to school? What's up??? Haven't heard from you and keep wondering how you and Gil are doing and what you're planning to do to keep yourself occupied down there.

I saw Gil at Eastern minister's conference and he suggested that you were not too happy. That has me worried, especially with my going off to California. Is there anything I can do or would you like to call and talk. I'd be willing to accept charges if you want to call me collect.

You're a little like one of my own kids, David, and if there is anything bothering you that I can help with -- like if you want to come home, please feel free to yell for help. Only do it now, because by August 1 I'll be gone and it will be a lot harder to get you here or there. You always have a home with us, and you always have a friend in me. Keep it in mind.

Let me know how things are going, please. I love you.

Marge Ragona

June 1, 1979

Rev. Geri Ann Harvey
M. C.C. Los Angeles
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Geri:

Thanks for your kindness while I was in California, and for caring what happens with Jean and me. I especially want to tell you how grateful I am that you are permitting me a place to work until I can find a church in California. It makes all that has gone before almost worthwhile.

Plans are for me to leave here on August 3 at about noon, working our way west for the next six days. We will be driving a U-Haul (Ryder Truck) and stopping at various MCC's on the way. We expect to arrive about August 9th, if everything goes as planned. We had expected to leave July 30th, but some of the people with us need to wait for 1st of the month checks, etc.

I wonder if anyone at the church can be of help? We need to have an apartment lined up in advance if possible. Jean will have sufficient money sent to her to cover rent, deposit, etc. but she is so snowed with work and it will get worse as General Conference draws closer that she feels unable to get away to look for apartments, etc. Is there anyone who might do a little leg work for us in advance? It need not be fancy -- but clean and presentable, and ought to be in the Hollywood area if possible, to be close to Jean. It needs to have at least one bedroom, possibly 2 if that can be had, and needs to be inexpensive -- say in the \$200.00 range -- will go to \$225.00 if need be. Missy, my 14 1/2 year old daughter will be with me, my sons (David-21 and Jon-20) will be staying in Providence and Boston respectively.

I have my own furniture and goods, which will be on a truck with us and we have the truck from Aug. 2 to Aug. 13th, so that we will have sufficient time to unload, etc. before Conference. One of the men from MCC Providence is coming out and driving for us -- I do not drive due to poor vision. (Mike Nordstrom and I tease about which of us has the poorer vision -- and I usually win!!) The apartment need not be totally unfurnished, but also need not be totally furnished. I have basic pieces, but not huge amounts of stuff with me. Like the bare bones of a 3 room apartment.

June 1, 1979

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M.C.C. Los Angeles
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Geri:

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I am back at my old secular job at New England Medical Center, working in Ophthalmology research this time and making sufficient money to send on ahead and to pay for moving expenses. I expect to find work in a similar situation when I get there -- I am a good medical research secretary and editor and have never wanted for work, usually pretty well paid, at that. I would have no need to be salaried or anything and realize that that was never in question.

I have written a follow-up letter thanking Pomoma for permitting me the opportunity to preach for them, and also sent my resume to All Saints. Oceanside is too far away, and Long Beach is over my head. I hope that one of the two I've candidated for feels I'm just what they are looking for -- or maybe not what they're looking for, but what they need!

Don't know if you are aware that I preach pretty well and that Emmett (who's in your choir) and I have worked together to pretty good effect. May be we could work something out for an evening service some time? I am also a good teacher -- do a good Bible study and am a fair counselor. I have lots of background in Sunday School work, and love adult teaching. I've also done a study with our deacons based on a book called "The Deacon in a Changing Church", put out by the American Baptists, so if you have a need for that sort of thing, I might be useful.

I am fairly independent, not a leaner, and usually pull my own weight. I'm willing to work and work pretty well with others. The rest you know from my records. I have a B.A. from Tulane Univ. and an R.N. from Bellevue (Goldwater Mem. Hospital -- a Bellevue branch). I also taught grade school for 8 years -- in the ghetto of New Orleans.

Anyway -- I'll be here in about 9 weeks ready to stay.

I sent my thesis to Jim Dykes, but haven't heard from him one way or the other. Carol Cureton liked it so much that she asked if the Fellowship could publish it and I said "yes," have no idea what the time frame on that is.

Need to go -- someone just walked in with a manuscript. See you in August.

Love -- in Christ,

Marge Ragona

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Anyway -- I'll be there in about 2 weeks ready to stay.

I sent my thesis to Jim Dykes, but haven't heard from him one way or the other. Carol Guxton liked it so much that she asked if the Fellowship could publish it and I said "yes", have no idea what the time frame on that is.

Need to go -- someone just walked in with a manuscript. See you in August.

Love -- in Christ,

Marjorie Radons

May 30, 1979

Rev. Elder Carol Cureton
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90029

Dear Carol:

I just wanted to thank you and the office staff for your kindness while I was in California, and for permitting me to hang around the office, see Jean, and be useful.

It was a rare opportunity for someone from this part of the country to get a real taste of what goes on in the Fellowship offices, and I have tried to impart to others back here just how much work is done by the very small paid staff out there.

Again, thanks for your hospitality. I look forward to seeing all of you at General Conference.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marge Ragona

mfr

May 30, 1979

Rev. Elder Carol Gureton
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90029

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In Christ's love,

Rev. Marge Radons

MTL



Metropolitan Community Church

Post Office Box 22187

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Phone (615) 383-4106

Thomas S. Bigelow, M.D.

Mr. Jimmy L. Rooks
Administrative Asst.

7 March 1979

dear Marge

here is the draft of a revision of By-law Article IV which I mentioned to you. It's offered for whatever use it may be to you and others; and whatever the local Board decides here, I'd be personally glad to enter into dialogue with you and others about the issues and wht should be done.

This paper has 3 main values in my own opinion: (1) it stresses the priesthood of all believers, and makes a statement about the Fellowship committing the exercise of certain offices to persons (2) it sees value in BOTH a local church exhortership and a District level student ministry, and (3) it tidies and simplifies some things without radically changing them

David is wondering how is Susan Daum? Marge, he misses the Providence Church and people, and knows he feels a little homesick. Physically he's vastly improved, but not entirely comfortable yet. He told you he's on the state program here, I think. He's also Convener (by their choice) of our music committee! and is pushing us all to keep going and keep growing out of sexism (Hallelujah!)

Our relationship is, well, how shall I say? It's one of real love. And it's not always easy for either of us. We're both learning a lot of "how's" and "how-not's." It's already changed me profoundly inwardly and outwardly, and for good. Praise God! And I promise you, he's getting the best I can give and be whether that's enough or not.

Sorry to hear what I do about New York. Deeply sorry. John Hose has resigned Tampa and is candidating Atlanta, and Tom Bigelow is resigning as District Coordinator. And there'll be alot to tell in Florida in April. You ARE coming aren't you? I really hope so!

Much love to you and to all,



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

P.O. Box 1145 Baltimore, Maryland 21203
Church Office 366-1415

Oct 10 1978

Dear Marge,
Dave was thrilled with your letter, but as I'm the writer of the family,
I get to do the replies anyway,

Thanks for the Crosses, will get a cheque to you next week; (our Treasurer although a sweetie is going through his yearly MENopause and is about to get his ass in a sling if he don't shape up, he didn't pick up his mail on Sunday, zipped in and zipped out after Service so will call him myself)

My dear sister; with all the trials we have, one begins to see the wisdom of the early Church Aunties (or whatever) in advocating an unwed Clergy.

Don't feel too bad about Ginny, after all, at the risk of sounding very elitist I think we sometimes forget that our call from God to Serve as Shepherds is not quite the same call that the sheep are given. We sacrifice all for God and God's children (or we should), but the flock is limited in what they feel they can manage.

A Minister living alone can more easily invite wandering waifs to take shelter than a Minister with a spouse can; The spouse, although wanting to be 'Christian' can get really upset over not being consulted, or invasion of privacy, or just having people hanging around, when s/he her/himself might have had to struggle along in the past with no help at all from anyone; So don't be too harsh with her for being human; [after all, how many of the rest of your flock stampeded to make room for them in their homes?] By the way, the Red Cross provides emergency housing for burnt-out victims, and although it is probably not classy, it can sometimes motivate people to positive action.

Ginny is very much a 'baby Christian' and I'm afraid you gave her 'meat' that she couldn't digest at all eh? You made a mistake relationship-wise of pre-judging; You are a loving, caring person, and you keep forgetting that not everyone is as loving and caring as you are. As a Christian you did well.... but might you have lost a soul...?

Now, don't think I am saying you shouldn't have helped etc. that's not what I'm saying; what I do want to share is that maybe you could have kept a cooler head, and found an alternative that would have effectively taken care of the situation as well as maintained peace in your home. There was so much love between you when we were there, and, in spite of whatever had been said or done, I can't believe that it can fly out the window just like that.

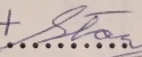
Your problem is that you think God is a Mother Hen instead of a Mother Eagle. What does the Mother Eagle do? It pushes the baby out of the nest and makes it fly on its own; If it looks like it won't make it She catches it in her claws, flies high, drops it again, meanwhile flying close by to advise, but not touch.

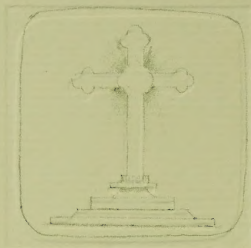
The process is repeated until the baby can fly for itself. So what you can do, is get a list of welfare organizations, and refer people; no one said you had to bear the world's burdens dear, Jesus does that. Keep tabs on those who have been referred, advise all you can, offer encouragement etc. but maintain your own right to some privacy and to some time for yourself. We are not the Saviours, just the under-Shepherds. I remember telling a little kid back home once, who seeing my robes etc. in an awe-struck voice took my hand and whispered "are you Jesus?", his mother was about to die of embarrassment so I just picked him up and said "No, but I work for Him". How true it is, eh?

Well, that's enough of Dorothy Dix, [you can tell me to mind my own business I know I say too much anyhow.] I want you to know that I love you a lot and am

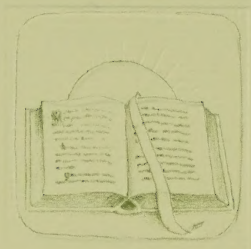
praying for you, and that you'll take my comments as a sign of my loving concern
and also a little confession;

I have a failing; I tend to think of God as a Mother
Hen too! shhhh! Don't tell, o.k.?

In Christ's love, + 



An Easter Prayer for You



To Marge

May the Good Shepherd,
who protects and watches over us,
bless you and yours at Eastertime
with His very special love.

HAPPY EASTER

God bless you and
yours.

Love,

Jose Parete

DEAR PASTOR:

It would be appreciated, if you would read the enclosed letter from your pulpit. We solicit your help and support. We will acknowledge receipt of all donations.

Rev. Joan G. Johnson

DEAR PASTOR:

It would be appreciated if you would
be able to help me and support
the mission.

Rev. John G. Johnson



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

P.O. Box 1145 Baltimore, Maryland 21203
Church Office 366-1415

Oct 5th 1978

Dear Marge,

Well, our Conference is well and truly over, thank goodness; it was a roaring success, and acclaimed the best Conference ever, [even by Washington,] but it was rather tiring, and we were all glad to collapse after it was over.

Mother Eagle is no more; the women voted to discontinue the joint district process and to put out a Mid Atlantic paper called 'the Lost Coin' (you know, the woman who searches frantically for a lost coin, how much more does God search for souls etc.?) The Task force on Women was good, [even though one of Nancy Radcliffes women rudely called me a 'Male Authoritative Figure' when I dared to answer a Theological question about the Feminine Aspect of Deity _ they asked, and I had the answer, actually I thought I did rather well at it for a man! heh!] The general atmosphere was very good and positive.

Larry Urhig has come up with another 'vision', [last years was Christian Ed. every night at M C C DC, it flopped, they had 'teams' for everything, too many chiefs.] This year it is 'Build Beulah Land in Washington' (read 'Dysnoland Hallelujah') a proposed multi million \$ multi purpose church-soup kitchen-street shelter-retirement home-etc. Not wishing to be rude, but D.C. has a surplus of shelters and kitchens now, plus I cannot envisage Washington Church ever maintaining such a venture. He proclaimed his 'vision' to Washington and they responded with 'over \$75,000 in cash and pledges' Unfortunately pledges is the key word, and we all know how worthless they can be. World Church extension was supposed to be 11,000 dollars at Gen Conf., remember? well, Nancy Wilson reports only a couple of thousand was ever received.

He has sent letters out to all the Churches asking for money etc. and took up a lot of time expressing the 'Beulah land venture' at Conference; [personally, Beulah Land sounds like a home for retired drag Queens, I would rather die!] I'm rather concerned for him, as he seems oblivious to various rumbling in the Congregation about this and other crazy schemes. Frank Scott tips that by next year he'll be out and Frank Murr will end up as Pastor, anyway we shall wait and see. Marge, why are Americans so crazy? Money, Money, has it really become the sign of Salvation? what happened to the Precious Blood? or did I miss something?

I don't mind being a simple little Church that meets budget, but never is able to save anything; I don't even mind being called "the Bishop of Baltimore" behind my back, [to my background it is a great compliment, even if it's not meant to be.] But why do we who are small have to bear the snide comments and Cock o' the Roost of the ones who have the geat \$\$\$? Infuriating, I say. There, I feel better already! It's so nice to have a Ragona in the family.

Began our Two Communion Services last Sunday, I think they will work fine. It is the only way to deal with the crowds. The owner of our building is thinking of buying a Church and renting it to us, so we are hoping. Gave a three hour lecture to the Baltimore County Health Dept last week on Homosexuality, and they want me to do another one again soon. Troy is due this month and he wants us to plan a big fundraiser for the Briggs thing (more \$\$\$) so I'm scratching to work out something (honey if I could raise that kind of cash we would have had a Church last year!), Maybe I could send everyone down to the block for a week? Oh Well.

How is Jenny? hope you are still happy together; Dave is fine, me too. When are you coming down? I thought you were due this month sometime.

Well sweetheart, got to go, give my love to everyone; Fancy poor Pope John Paul dying so soon, he seemed so nice. Lets hope the next one is pro Gay hmmm?

In Christ's Love,

+ Stan

P.S. Any news on
CHARTERING yet?



Metropolitan Community Church

1050 South Hill Street • Los Angeles, California 90015 • (213) 748-0121

August 9, 1978

Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey
Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

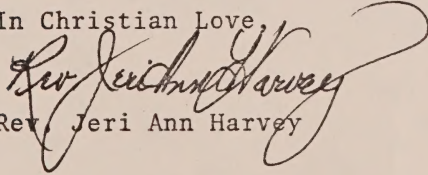
"So why haven't you written your mother? I give you the best years of my life and then you grow up and have families of your own and forget all about your mother." Sound familiar? It should, most of us get letters like that from our mothers.

When I was lovers with a young woman many years ago I used to send her mother a doz. roses on my lovers birthday with a card that said, "Thanks to you I have her."

If by now you wonder what this is all about, it's about your "mother" church, MCCLA, and "her" 10th birthday. We aren't trying to guilt trip any of you, but we are trying to involve you in our celebration. It's a family affair. One of us had to be first, praise God, and it just happens to be us. We aren't saying "look at MCCLA" as a church, we're saying look where we've all come from and how far we've gone. The first mistakes were made here, the first hurts, the first frustrations, but "our kids" learned from those things and their kids learned and on and on. We're proud of ALL of you and we want the Fellowship and the world to know it!

Please join us in whatever way you can to say "Hey, 'Mom', I love you." You are needed as a part of our family to mark this 10th birthday. Join us in our banquet Sat. Oct. 7th, or send a donation of \$10.00 per seat to be represented there. Send your pictures and biographies we requested last month for our "Family Portrait," send yourselves if you possibly can. Every congregation is invited and expected to participate. It's the least you can do for your "Mother."

In Christian Love,


Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey

For Your Birthday





*“ . . . and he shall give thee the desires of thine
heart.”*

Psalm 37:4

To
merge

To wish you
Happy Birthday,
And then to tell you, too,
That all Life's best
and brightest joys
Are warmly wished
for you!

Rev. Dee Jackson
and all of us from
Alpha and Omega House,

from the
Coronation
COLLECTION
MADE IN U.S.A.

78701 ST

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto



29 Granby Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1H8

(416) 364-9799

July, 1978

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

God is really blessing us. M.C.C. Toronto is a very active and growing church. So much so that the need for additional ministerial help is becoming more and more evident and now we are looking for an Assistant Pastor. If you are interested in applying for this position, or if you know of anyone who might be, please pass the word on that resumes are being sought.

This is a big step for our church, so consequently, your prayers are certainly appreciated.

Yours in Christ's Love,

Rev. Brent Hawkes

BH:rs

Reverend Brent Hawkes

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto



29 Grandy Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1H8
(416) 364-2722

July, 1978

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
God is really blessing us. M.C.C. Toronto is a very
active and growing church. So much so that the need for
additional ministerial help is becoming more and more evi-
dent and now we are looking for an Assistant Pastor. If
you are interested in applying for this position, or if
you know of anyone who might be, please pass the word on.
That resumes are being sought.
This is a big step for our church, so consequently,
your prayers are certainly appreciated.

Yours in Christ's love,

Reverend Brent Hawkes

BH:rs

June 3, 1978

Dear Marge,

Greetings from MCC-New Haven!

I am writing to ask if you would send me an MCC cross in the mail for one of our regular attenders here. I wore the one I bought from you at the conference to church that Sunday night when I returned to New Haven, and one of our folks wanted one for himself. I promised I would write to get one for him. Enclosed is a check for \$3.50. I hope this will cover postage.

God's good blessings upon you and your ministry in Providence. Sent 6/7/78

Warm regards,

Send to:
Ken Theriault
16 Winchester Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

Ken Theriault
Worship Coordinator
MCC New Haven.

July 14, 1978

To: All MCC Ministers

From: Pastoral Search Committee, MCC Hartford

This is to inform all interested ministers that the pulpit of
MCC Hartford is vacant effective July 17, 1978.

We would ask that all interested ministers send resumes which
should be in to us by July 29, 1978.

Resumes should be sent to:

MCC-HARTFORD

Attn: Pastoral Search Committee
Post Office Box 514
Hartford, Ct. 06101

Sincerely yours,

Steven Regis

Steven Regis
Chairperson

July 17, 1978

To: All MOC Members

From: President, National Committee, MOC, Hartford

This is an information letter to you regarding the

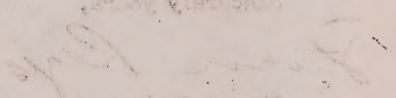
MOC Hartford. The meeting will be held on July 17, 1978.

We would like that all interested individuals send responses which

should be in to us by July 20, 1978.

Responses should be sent to:

MOC-UNIT 710
Attn: President, National Committee
Post Office Box 515
Hartford, CT 06101

Very truly yours,

President, National Committee

LEADERSHIP NEEDS: (Please indicate by circling the appropriate number, where you feel the priority of professional leadership applies in your ministry on a scale of 1 to 5.)

	HIGH PRIORITY				LOW PRIORITY
A. MINISTRY TO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY/CHURCH/WORLD					
Sensitivity in relating the Gospel to contemporary life	1	2	3	4	5
Drawing attention to God's Word when preaching, speaking	1	2	3	4	5
Developing a sense of mutual sharing with other persons in work	1	2	3	4	5
Holding the attention of participants when preaching, speaking	1	2	3	4	5
Continuing to sharpen theological skills through study of current trends and thoughts	1	2	3	4	5
Seeking to provide a broad base of information to stimulate people to grow as Christians	1	2	3	4	5
Enabling persons to work together in meeting problems	1	2	3	4	5
Planning, developing, leading worship sensitive to the needs of the worshipping community	1	2	3	4	5
Encouraging people to understand and act on the relationship of the Gospel to the issue of justice	1	2	3	4	5
Responding with caring as an enabling counsellor	1	2	3	4	5
Reaching out with understanding to the estranged or isolated	1	2	3	4	5
Responding supportively to persons in crisis situations	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining confidentiality	1	2	3	4	5
Making pastoral calls	1	2	3	4	5
B. LEADERSHIP					
Seeking to build a strong sense of community among persons with whom he/she works	1	2	3	4	5
Trying to deal with conflict constructively	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing leadership with other persons	1	2	3	4	5
Handling administration tasks effectively and efficiently	1	2	3	4	5
Working well with committees, officers	1	2	3	4	5
Working well with adults					

LEADERSHIP NEEDS: (Please indicate by circling the appropriate number, where you feel the priority of professional leadership applies in your ministry on a scale of 1 to 5.)

A. MINISTRY TO RESISTING COMMUNITY/CHURCH/WORD	HIGH PRIORITY					LOW PRIORITY				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Facilitating in relating the Gospel to contemporary life	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Drawing attention to God's Word when preaching, speaking	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Developing a sense of mutual sharing with other persons in work	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Withdrawing the attention of participants when preaching, speaking	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Continuing to sharpen theological skills through study of current trends and theories	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Seeking to provide a broad base of information to stimulate people to grow as Christians	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Facilitating persons to work together in meeting problems	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Planning, developing, leading worship sensitive to the needs of the worshipping community	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Encouraging people to understand and act on the relationship of the Gospel to the issues of justice	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Responding with caring as an enabling counselor	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Reaching out with understanding to the estranged or isolated	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Responding supportively to persons in crisis situations	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining confidentiality	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Being pastoral calls	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
B. LEADERSHIP										
Seeking to build a strong sense of community among persons with whom I work	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Trying to deal with conflict constructively	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing leadership with other persons	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Handling administration tasks effectively and efficiently	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Working well with coworkers, officers	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Working well with adults	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

B. LEADERSHIP (cont'd)

High Priority

Low Priority

Working well with youth	1	2	3	4	5
Accepting assignments, completing tasks	1	2	3	4	5
Utilizing his/her time effectively	1	2	3	4	5
Seeking to bring new membership into the fellowship of the church	1	2	3	4	5
Taking an active role in reaching inactive members	1	2	3	4	5
Encouraging sound stewardship growth and assisting actively as a leader	1	2	3	4	5
Stimulating persons to look at and meet the world's problems with action	1	2	3	4	5
Encouraging laity involvement in planning, participating, and leading worship	1	2	3	4	5

C. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Having a formal style	1	2	3	4	5
Adapting and welcoming new ideas	1	2	3	4	5
Honoring commitments, carrying out promises	1	2	3	4	5
Approaching persons in a positive way	1	2	3	4	5
Seeking to manifest a personal belief in the Gospel in his/her life	1	2	3	4	5
Acknowledging own limitations and mistakes, and recognizing the need for his/her continued growth	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining a collegial relationship with other leaders in the religious community	1	2	3	4	5

PLEASE INDICATE FROM THE ABOVE LIST WHAT YOU FEEL TO BE THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT

STRENGTHS NEEDED. _____

29 Grandy Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1H8

(416) 364-2722



Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

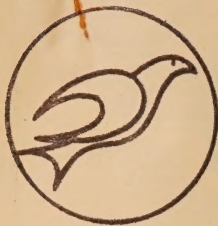
July, 1978

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
God is really blessing us. M.C.C. Toronto is a very
active and growing church. So much so that the need for
additional ministerial help is becoming more and more evi-
dent and now we are looking for an Assistant Pastor. If
you are interested in applying for this position, or if
you know of anyone who might be, please pass the word on
that resumes are being sought.
This is a big step for our church, so consequently,
your prayers are certainly appreciated.

Yours in Christ's love,

Reverend Brent Hawkes

BH:rs



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE TWIN CITIES

OFFICE: 2830 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

TELEPHONE: (612) 729-7448

PASTOR: Rev. Joan G. Johnson



Dear Friends in Christ:

We need your help! Metropolitan Community Church of Minneapolis is taking on a scary but exciting challenge. The challenge each of our church groups pray for, that of a church home.

Our congregation voted an overwhelming 97% in favor of accepting the challenge, and now we are in the process of raising \$11,000 dollars in the next sixty days, to make our dream a reality.

We are not asking for a love offering, however we would ask that each member of each congregation invest the sum of .25¢ in our building. Special prayers will be offered by our congregation, for each person who is able to see our 'vision' and with God's help and yours, make that vision a reality.

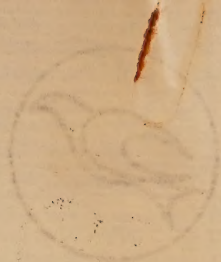
We pray for your well-being, and thank your for your love and consideration.

In the tender love and peace of Christ,

Rev. Joan G. Johnson
Pastor

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE TWIN CITIES

OFFICE: 2220 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
TELEPHONE (612) 338-1414
PASTOR: Rev. John C. Johnson



Dear Friends in Christ:

As you know, the Metropolitan Community Church of Minneapolis is
not on a steady but exciting change. The change each of our
churches have made from that of a church house.

Our congregation voted on November 17 to leave the building for
change, and we are in the process of making all the details
in the next sixty days, to make our change a reality.

We are not asking for a large offering, because we would not like to
member of your congregation know that we of 1951 in our building.
Special efforts will be required by our congregation, for each person
who is able to do our "mission" and with God's help and yours, with
that vision a reality.

We are for your mission, and thank you for your love and support.

In the loving care and peace of Christ.

Rev. John C. Johnson
Pastor

July 28, 1978

Rev. Gilbert H. Lincoln, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of New York

New York, N.Y.

Dear Gil:

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to Dr. Alice Kitchen of St. Louis.

I thought for a long time about what I wanted to say in this letter, and don't know if you will approve, but it says what I needed to say about the matter:

1. I love you
2. I don't always agree with you
3. I think you are a man of God, and called
4. I think you will make them a good pastor

If that's what I felt, that's what I tried to say.

I hope things are going well with you at home in N.Y. now, and that the church is beginning to heal -- it was not in good shape when I was down there at Gay Pride Day.

We are expecting Troy on August 14-15, and that's going to look like a lot of work which we need to get going on -- like TODAY!!

Jean Gralley and I have opened up our relationship, and I am currently seeing an old friend of both of ours -- Ginny Hill. Ginny is a social worker, 37 years old, and relaxing to be around. For the first time in over a year I feel like I can relate to a peer who isn't trying to tell me how to run my church, my life and my career. If I head West, Ginny will probably be going with me. Jean has pretty much dug in in the Boston area, and wants to stay there. I will be getting my Master's in another year and by then (if not sooner) will definitely be moving on. Providence is hard work, just to keep it solvent, and there is so little interest in providing a really good program.

Good luck with your plans. Keep me informed of what's going on.

Love,

July 28, 1978

Rev. Gilbert H. Lincoln, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of New York

New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to Dr. Alice Kitchen of St. Louis.

I thought for a long time about what I wanted to say in this letter, and don't know if you will approve, but it says what I needed to say about the matter:

1. I love you
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I hope things are going well with you at home in N.Y. now, and that the church is beginning to heal -- it was not in good shape when I was down there at Gay Pride Day.

We are expecting Troy on August 18-19, and that's going to look like a lot of work which we need to get going on -- like TODAY!!

Jean Grayley and I have opened up our relationship, and I am currently seeing an old friend of both of ours -- Ginny Hill. Ginny is a social worker, 37 years old, and relaxing to be around. For the first time in over a year I feel like I can relate to a peer who isn't trying to tell me how to run my church, my life and my career. If I head West, Ginny will probably be going with me. Jean has pretty much dug in in the Boston area, and wants to stay there. I will be getting my Master's in another year and by then (if not sooner) will definitely be moving on. Providence is hard work, just to keep it solvent, and there is so little interest in providing a really good program.

Good luck with your plans. Keep me informed of what's going on.

Love,



Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis

5108 Waterman St. Louis, Missouri, 63108
(314) 361-7284

Peace and love in the name of Christ!

This letter will inform you, that as of March 16, 1978, the pulpit of MCC of Greater St. Louis was vacated. The Board of Directors is presently actively seeking a person to fill the position of Pastor.

We offer the following description of MCC St. Louis: a chartered church in the Mid-Central District in our fifth year of existence. We have a membership of 100, with an average attendance of approximately 80 for Sunday services and approximately 30 for Wednesday evening services. We are purchasing our own building which is located in the Central West End of the Metropolitan St. Louis area. Currently in leadership positions we have 3 licensed Deacons, 4 licensed Exhorters (2 serving in the local church and 2 serving as field exhorters), 2 Diaconate Candidates, 2 Exhorter Candidates, and a 6 member Board of Directors (excluding the Pastor). There are approximately 15 committee or responsibility areas coordinated by lay leadership. We offer 24-hour telephone coverage, and have a wide range of out-reach programs to and for the community at large, i.e., Rap Group, Coffeehouse, Alcoholics Together, Al-Anon, Overeaters Anonymous, Counseling services, Publications, CHI-RHO, speakers services, Christian Social Action, ministry to the non-hearing, Christian Education, Music Ministry, Social activities, bookstore, and Prison Ministry.

Board of Directors

page 2

We seek to live up to our description as an "Ecumenical Christian Church", and characterize ourselves as evangelical in spirit and motivation, with worship services that reflect that approach in combination with a dedication to teach and share an appreciation for sound liturgical worship. The congregation of MCC St. Louis is predominately conservative in attitude and lifestyle.

Within the past six months, we, the congregation of MCC St. Louis, have experienced much internal strife and dissatisfaction. Some healing and reconciliation has occurred and we continue to love and support one another, to grow in Christian love, maturity, and concern for one another, and most importantly, to preach and teach the Good News of Jesus Christ!

MCC of Greater St. Louis is a vital force in the gay community of the metropolitan St. Louis area. We actively cooperate in a variety of ways with Dignity, Integrity, Lutherans Concerned, and other gay community organizations. We are active participants in MASH (Metropolitan Association of Service Hotlines) and have a particularly close reciprocal relationship with LCS (Life Crisis Services), a crisis hotline.

Our budget for fiscal 1977-78 is approximately \$40,000. The current pastoral support package consists of a weekly salary, monthly housing allowance, monthly annuity payment, mileage allowance, paid health/life insurance, and an annual physical check-up paid for by the church. Included in our agreement with the Pastor are: 3 weeks paid vacation, time and expenses for ministers' conference,

Board of Directors

page 3

District and General Conferences, time for a pulpit exchange and a spiritual renewal with other churches in the Fellowship. The Pastor is given all legal holidays off unless they fall on Sunday or other days of religious celebration. In that event, an alternate day off is given. The Pastor is given at least one day off per week, with one day for study and preparation and light office duty. This summarizes our current pastoral support package and contractual agreement; however, the Board of Directors will negotiate with pastoral candidates.

If you wish to be considered a candidate for this pastorate, please submit the following to us within four weeks receipt of this letter:

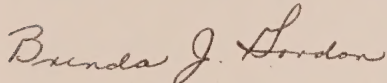
1. A personal resume.
2. Letters of evaluation from the following:
 - A. your District Coordinator, if you are a senior pastor; if you are an assistant or staff minister, a letter from your senior Pastor.
 - B. an evaluation from the members of the Pastoral Staff -- Deacons and Exhorters, with which you are currently, or have most recently, served.
 - C. an evaluation from the Board of Directors with which you are now serving or have most recently served.
3. Two letters of recommendation from persons outside any congregation of the UFMCC.
4. A personal financial disclosure statement (see attached).

Board of Directors

page 4

Please continue to keep MCC St. Louis in your prayers as we seek a Pastor
for our congregation.

Sincerely,
For the Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda J. Gordon".

Brenda J. Gordon

Clerk

encl: Personal Financial Disclosure Statement

BJG/rr

PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

It is understood that the following information is given to Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis for purposes of employment and/or credit investigations. This information is to be held in confidence by them, and will not be made available to anyone other than the Board of Directors and their agent(s).

Signature

Date

Name

Address

Apt #

City

State

Zip

Length of Residence

Social Security Number

19

Birthdate

Previous Address

City

State

Zip

Length of Residence

Present Employer:

Previous Employer:

Name

Name

Address

Address

City

State

Zip

City

State

Zip

() -
Telephone

() -
Telephone

Position

Position

Length of Employment

Length of Employment

(The following concerns your personal information only and should not include that of your spouse.)

-Gross Earnings, 1977 (exclude any fringe benefits paid by your congregation, i.e., parsonage, auto, etc.) \$ _____
 -Total Monthly Obligations (paid directly from your earnings) \$ _____
 -Total Obligations Paid By Your Congregation (parsonage, auto, etc.) \$ _____
 -If you are currently enrolled in an annuity or I.R.A. Account, what is your monthly obligation? \$ _____
 Paid by Congregation? yes _____ no _____

-Automobile: (year) _____ (make) _____ (model) _____



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Rev. Ann Montague

(503) 746-7427

April 26, 1978

Dear Friends:

The pulpit in Eugene, Oregon (MCC-Willamette Valley) will be vacant as of the end of July. We, the Board of Directors, are searching for a new pastor to fill this vacancy. Currently, we are a small, but dedicated, congregation (with Mission status) and our financial resources are meager. We can offer little more than a small monthly stipend, insurance benefits, help with travelling expenses to and from conferences, and possibly some help with moving expenses. However, as we all know, great rewards and benefits do not always come in the form of financial gain!

Eugene is a unique community. It is growing constantly, yet retains a small town atmosphere. It has been called one of the most desirable places to live in the United States. It has something to offer everyone -- from unlimited educational and recreational opportunities to the large variety of cultural and unconventional arts that are ongoing.

As you may have noticed, we have recently gained national attention due to the repeal of our gay rights ordinance. However, let this not be in the least discouraging, because Eugene has a large, strong gay community. We have all gained a new strength and a new solidarity through this. MCC-Willamette Valley has been continually active in both the straight and gay communities. We have gained many strong friends within the greater religious community, and the incoming pastor should be able to work within this framework. Our present pastor has been working very closely with Presbyterian ministers, Episcopalian ministers, Catholic sisters, and others, and it would be regrettable to lose this strong circle of support that has been built up around MCC-WV.

MCC-WV has an exciting potential for growth and many possibilities. We need a person with strong leadership qualities and an ability to reach out to the community. We have a good reputation here and would like to maintain that. We would appreciate hearing from any interested persons. Preferably, we would like to receive resumes (including personal information, past employment experiences, past educational experiences) and letters of recommendation from their respective District Coordinators from all interested persons. We would like to fill this vacancy as soon as possible so that the incoming pastor could arrive before our present pastor has to leave; therefore, all interested persons should reply to us before June 20.

Yours in Christ,

Kala Payne

Kala Payne, Clerk
Board of Directors, MCC-WV
P.O. Box 3076
Eugene, OR 97403

April 18, 1978

Rev. Stan Harris
MCC Baltimore

Baltimore, Md.

Dearest Stan:

Sorry I did not get this off to you right away upon my arrival home, but I found myself in the middle of a political hoo-hah when I got here. You'll remember I told you there had been a hearing on the Comprehensive Human Rights Ordinance and that Jean had spoken for MCC at it? Well, there had been a very unfair set of ground-rules at that hearing and it was all skewed in favor of those against the Ordinance. The gay community here, along with one of the politicians who was silenced had decided to sue the city council. I was elected (as the town's only "out" gay who had nothing to lose) to make the statement on TV. So Friday after I returned Bruce Voeller (NGTF) and I had a press conference -- and we were off and running.

I am enclosing one of the local paper's stories about the mess.

Also, I got home in the middle of planning for the R.I. College Gay Symposium which is next week, and nothing had been done about lining up speakers. I called a group of friends in N.Y. and so we have been able to enlist a few authors, a guy (Vito Russo) who does a beautiful thing on the films about gays, and some entertainers. What a couple of weeks!

About my stay with you: I loved it and you and David. I had a good rest -- which I badly needed and appreciated considering what I had to face when I got back. I also learned a lot from you -- for example, when you were ironing your church linen. I had a chance to read two books -- one of which taught me some things about structuring my interior spiritual life -- which I needed, and I learned some things about devotion and prayer. In all a rewarding week -- and unexpectedly rich.

I love you. I appreciate you and I wish you were still in our district to share your special talents with all of us --

April 18, 1978

Rev. Stan Harris
MOB Baltimore

Baltimore, Md.

Dearest Stan:

Sorry I did not get this off to you right away upon my
survival home, but I found myself in the middle of a
political hot-bed when I got here. You'll remember I
told you there had been a hearing on the Comprehensive
Human Rights Ordinance and that Jean had spoken for MOB
at it? Well, there had been a very nasty set of ground-
rules at that hearing and it was all skewed in favor of
those against the Ordinance. The gay community here, along
with one of the politicians who was elected had decided
to sue the city council. I was elected (as the town's only
"out" gay who had nothing to lose) to make the statement on
TV. So Friday after I returned Bruce Voller (HOTP) and I
had a press conference -- and we were off and running.

I am enclosing one of the local paper's stories about the
mess.

Also, I got home in the middle of planning for the R.I.
College Gay Symposium which is next week, and nothing had
been done about lining up speakers. I called a group of
friends in N.Y. and so we have been able to enlist a few
authors, a guy (Vito Russo) who does a beautiful thing on
the films about gays, and some entertainers. What a couple
of weeks!

About my stay with you: I loved it and you and David. I
had a good rest -- which I badly needed and appreciated
considering what I had to face when I got back. I also
learned a lot from you -- for example, when you were from
your church linen. I had a chance to read two books -- one
of which taught me some things about structuring my interior
spiritual life -- which I needed, and I learned some things
about devotion and prayer. In all a rewarding week -- and
unexpectedly rich.

I love you. I appreciate you and I wish you were still in
our district to share your special talents with all of us.

I appreciate particularly that you are willing to share them with me.

I also appreciate that you and David opened your home to me so lovingly and caringly. I enjoyed both of you and look forward to sharing mine with you when you pass this way.

My love and thanks to you both.

Love, in Christ

Rev. Marge Ragona

mfr

April 29, 1978

Rev. Shelley Hamilton
48 9th Avenue
New York, New York 10011

Dear Shelley:

Enclosed are the papers required for relicensing (form, 2 book reports, and bibliography).

I received my copy of CHRYSALIS, the paper of the Worcester church, which announced your immanent arrival on June 1.

Please let us know when you are having your formal installation or whatever, and we will be there as a delegation from MCC-Providence. Our people are looking forward to your arrival in this area, and would like you to know you have their support as well. If there is anything we can do to help, please get in touch. Do you need anything?

I look forward to seeing you at Conference. God bless you as you begin work in Worcester.

In Christ,

Marge Ragona

mfr

April 29, 1978

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48 9th Avenue
New York, New York 10011

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I look forward to seeing you at Conference. God bless you as
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In Christ,

Harje Ragone

mlr

April 29, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen
8 Concord Square
Boston, Mass. 02118

Dear Ed:

Enclosed are the papers required for relicensing (form, 2 book reports, and bibliography). As you probably know, I will be applying for ordination once my year as a licensed minister is up in August. My ordination thesis will be entitled "The Word Made Flesh," and will be dealing with theological and religious language, particularly patriarchal language in Christianity. This topic was tentatively agreed to by the committee while we were in Florida.

I am sorry the enclosed papers are late by a week, but as you are probably aware, we have been through an ordinance hearing and that was closely followed by the R.I. College Symposium on Homosexuality which I was helping to coordinate. Providence is a busy little place!

I'm sorry if I stirred up a hornets nest. I did not intend to. This is an issue on which you are "damned if you do and damned if you don't," and nobody seems to understand what the hell you are saying, no matter how carefully you choose your words. I spoke on "Responsibility," not on being for or against anything.

I might add that Bob Wellington came over here and spoke on the opposite side of the issue than the position I have taken, and my church is looking for my hide, too! Wanna swap churches!

I love you and I would not deliberately try to undermine you -- I just have a mind of my own and spoke it. I was extremely careful to weigh my words, to speak gently, and to not condemn anyone or anything, nor for that matter to name anything. I asked only that the gay community behave responsibly, as adults, and that if we wanted "rights", we had to be willing to pay the price for them.

I would be glad to send you my notes, if it will help.

Love,

Marge

April 29, 1976

Rev. Edward Horgan
3 Concord Square
Boston, Mass. 02118

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Love,

Marge

April 29, 1978

Rev. Jose Mojica
72-15 41st Avenue
Woodside, N.Y. 11377

Dear Jose:

Enclosed please find the papers for relicensing (form, two book reports, and bibliography). I am sorry they are late, but we have been in the middle of a City Ordinance battle and that was closely followed by the R.I. College Symposium on Homosexuality, 5 nights of speakers, which I was caught up in planning for.

I also received a note regarding District Conference, from Jose Vargas. Ours is a notoriously unmusical congregation -- however, we possibly might work up a choral reading. Can you tell us what the theme will be? Also, I have a young woman guitarist who sings, and she will be there. She is willing to participate, but only if there is a microphone, since she does not have a strong voice. Do you think there is any possibility there? (We ordinarily have such equipment in our church and it makes it very easy for us to use her.)

I look forward to seeing you at conference. God bless you and your people.

In Christ,

Rev. Marge Ragona
Pastor
MCC-Providence

mfr

April 29, 1978

Rev. Jesse Moffitt
72-15 41st Avenue
Woodside, N.Y. 11377

Dear Jesse:

Enclosed please find the papers for releasing (from two book reports, and bibliography). I am sorry they are late, but we have been in the middle of a City Ordinance battle and that was closely followed by the R.I. College Symposium on Homosexuality, 5 nights of speakers, which I was caught up in planning for.

I also received a note regarding District Conference. From Jose Vargas. Jose is a notoriously unusual congregation -- however, we possibly might work up a choral reading. Can you tell us what the theme will be? Also, I have a young woman, Elizabeth who sings, and she will be there. She is willing to participate, but only if there is a microphone, since she does not have a strong voice. Do you think there is any possibility there? (We ordinarily have such equipment in our church and it makes it very easy for us to use her.)

I look forward to seeing you at conference. God bless you and your people.

In Christ,

Rev. Marge Rogers
Pastor
MCO-Providence

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH HISPANA

P.O. BOX 357 VILLAGE STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014



REV. JOSÉ L. MOJICA
PASTOR

OFICINA
152 WEST 42nd ST. ROOM 935
212-221-1238

SERVICIOS
PARK AVE. Y 21st ST

To: All Study Group, Missions, and Churches of the Northeast District of the U.F.M.C.C.

Re: Their participation in the Saturday night service at the District Conference on May 20th.

Dear Congregation;

May the Lord God give you peace and love.

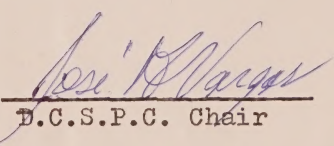
The May District Conference is near, and we are looking forward to a "Spiritually Fulfilling Service".

The District Conference Service Planning Committee hopes to have as many congregations as possible participating in it.

Are you willing to take part in this service? If so, what would you like to do? Some suggestions: choir, solo, guitar player, singers, poems, pianist.

PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Send all information to the above address in care of Service Planning Committee.


D.C.S.P.C. Chair

May 23, 1978

Rev. John Gill
MCC-Ft. Lauderdale
1127 SW 2nd Court
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33312

Dear John:

First, although remiss, let me thank you for your assistance when Jean and I needed to fly back from Florida following Eastern Ministers Conference. I honestly do not know how we would have managed without your kindness.

Secondly, enclosed is the outline for the paper I discussed with you. The ordination thesis, as you will note, is entitled, "The Word Made Flesh: Language and the Nature of God." I have also sent the bibliography (intended) for the paper. I have read and made notes over the past three years from the books down to Section V, and have read many of the books in Section V, but have only just begun to make notes from those. I hope the paper will not only be readable but enjoyable, and that it will bring some hope to the alienated, as well as a knowledge of how to go about mending the rift between what Evangelicals and Liberals understand to be the central message of the Gospel.

It is only just beginning to be warm here -- can you imagine? It was already summer in Florida when we were there, and now we are getting a few really warm days. During the public fast the temperature at night was in the 30's and it rained most of the time. Tell Lee to pick a better time of year next fast!

Our love to all of you in the Sunbelt.

In Christ's name,

Marjorie F. Ragona

mfr

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MCC-Ft. Lauderdale
1157 SW 2nd Court
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33312

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Our love to all of you in the Sunbelt.

In Christ's name,

Marjorie F. Kagan

mlr

MCC

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

P.O. BOX 1145 BALTIMORE MD. 21203

Nov 4th 1977

Dear Marg,

Just a little note to say "Hi!" and to let you know that you are in my prayers.

I just have to share with you about the Evang. Team, [remember I told you we were having them here to see what they were like?] Not that I am into that sort of thing very much, but I was curious.

Well, they were great! Not overdone, good music, no one falling on the floor, or tearing their hair, and INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE! Honey, they are as good as I am, (You know how humble I am,) so that's saying something.

It was most enjoyable, and a good shot in the arm for the congregation. They live in a bus, which they plug into house power at someones home; The only \$ support they get is a love-offering at each service; there is no set "fee", and they will come to any group, no matter how small or poor. I was very impressed with their presentation, the preaching was tops. We had them Wed. through Sun. then they went to Harrisburg [Arnold agreed to be a Guinea Pig with Baltimore] then they go down south.

You really should try to get them to Providence, they will be back here next July (I've booked them again.) so why not write to them and see? They also have a number of sermons, which can give you an idea, I'm enclosing a flyer for you to look at.

They also do workshops on various subjects as well, we didn't have them as we had a Halloween Dance planned - I'm just a worldly person I guess, but it was fun.

Well honey, got to get back to work, just thought I would let you know what they were like. Love to Providence.

T. Shores



January 6, 1977

Dear Stan:

Got your insane "You are Woman" card! I loved it, and so did Jean!

Re the crosses you asked about: We will have them some time this month and I will send them along to you as quickly as possible. I'm sorry we did not have them earlier, but I did not know who made them and have only just found out. My only problem is that I do not know yet how much they will cost us, and we have very very little money to lay out. I will, of course, extend you credit. We are getting other orders from around the Fellowship and while it eventually means money, it also means laying out money to make money.

I thank you for your advice on the minister's bill thing. It looks like Steve is trying to make this into a cause celebre, and it is unfair of him to do it to this church. He has gone to Jay Deacon, and I received a letter from Jay that makes it sound like I am persecuting him.

Re the Leather Men: We did reach out to one of the motorcycle clubs -- the Falcons, about our need at Christmas. They were wonderful. We were given many, many presents for our youngest children and enough that our older children each received at least one toy or game. The little ones got two each (they were also the neediest). We are inviting the Falcons to supper later this month, and will have a special service in their honor. I once wrote a sermon for a friend -- called it "Bondage and Discipline," and will work that up for them. I would appreciate receiving your service of blessing of the fleet (bikes), and if I thought we could get away with it, I'd fly their colors in the church. I suspect we'll have to settle for flying them here at the chapel in the parsonage.

I will send the exhorter program to you. It is currently at Jean's in Boston, but I need to have copies of it for Conference, and will make you one also. By the way, I bought your Ministers Handbook from the Calif. office. Very well done, that. It was full of information that an old low-church person like myself could use, like definitions of terms.

Send David, your love, my love. Neat picture and article about your Holy Union in In Unity.

Keep praying for us. We have so many needs. When we counted children

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Send David your love, my love. Next picture and article about your Holy Union in Unity.

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tends to feel more like the Southern Baptist church down in N.O., where we were doing rescue work with B-girls and their neglected kids. At least that was training for this. We have one totally abandoned kid -- 6 months old -- who was dropped on one of our members by her addict mother. The foster mother does not want to give the little one up, but is on welfare, since she has a 1 year old of her own.

Our problems are just a little different than your average MCC!

Jeannie and I are going through some bad times. The separation has gotten to us, and we periodically decide to part, and then realize that we cannot -- without tearing ourselves apart. I miss her dreadfully. She is going to Harvard (at \$20.00 a credit) and feels she needs to be in Boston. She also has the first decent job she has ever had since finishing school, and she graduated from Art School nearly three years ago! I don't blame her for staying in Boston. It just gets awful lonely over here without her, and will get worse once I am not in Boston every day. We have lunch a couple of times a week. I stay ~~xxx~~ there one night a week, and she comes here one night a week. That ought to suffice, but it seems even lonelier than if I didn't see her at all. Greedy, I guess.

My oldest son is here for a while. He is nearly 20, and has just had an automobile accident. Was hit by a car just after he arrived. Nothing serious. He was cut under the chin, got some bad bruises (was thrown 15 feet) and sprained a couple of things. Luckily, the driver stopped and helped him (in fact, insisted on calling the police when David did not want him to). My younger son (18) is trying to sell him first record to a recording company. I think he's very good. Was writing a rock opera, but these are kind of folk-rock.

Miss all of you in the Southern tier. I realize with a District Conf. coming up how many old friends I will not get to see, and that is a little sad.

I hope next time I write things will sound cheerier -- I think it is because I have been ill with whatever flu has been going around; that stuff is depressing!!

Thanks for giving me the courage to contact the Falcons -- and for that crazy card. Will be in touch again.

Love -- in Christ,

Marge

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Love -- in Christ,

Margo

MCC

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

P.O. BOX 1145 BALTIMORE MD. 21203

Nov 22nd 1977

Dear Marge,

Hi there precious! Good to hear from you so soon, and to know that things are going so well in Providence;

Do you still have M C C Crosses available? if so, can you please send us Two Dozen?; Bill us for them, and we shall send a cheque by return mail [our credit is good - I insist upon it!]

Ministers Bills: If these are in the Ministers name, [rather than the Churches], then the Minister is liable - not the Church, not the new Pastor. It is quite ethical and within the workings of Christian Charity to give the errant Ministers forwarding address to the companies involved. As well as removing the unasked for burden from the Church, it is also a valuable means of correction for the Minister involved and thus discourages him/her from continuing in this irresponsible manner. Gleeefully, I can report that I had the same problem here with a Woman who had left a string of creditors behind [no names] so I passed on the new address without a qualm. This also happened with an American Male in Australia who did the same thing to his church.... I guess irresponsible behaviour does not discriminate eh?

So, if the Church didn't run up the bills - it's not the Church's responsibility.

Of course you are going to make it! I knew that before you got there; my dear child, you haven't gone through a life of hell and highwater just to fade out with a sigh; there are great things to be done and you are just the person to do them.

Leather bars; The leather clubs /bike clubs/denim clubs (whatever) usually congregate on a special night at the bar. Call the bar and ask for the manager; explain who you are and what M C C is. Tell him you need and ask ~~him~~ him if the bar itself would be willing to help out, or if not, does he think the bike clubs themselves would be interested. The bike clubs are usually into this sort of thing, so if the Bar manager doesn't seem too hot on the idea, I suggest you visit the bars in person and talk to the President of the club(s) Bike clubs are easy to find, as the members have large back patches on their denim jackets. If there is a hassle about being a woman in the bar, get one of your men to "scout" for you, [a Macho-type will meet with better success as a scout.] I don't think you will have any trouble at all, just be your usual straight-from-the-shoulder self. You can offer to bless their bikes if they would like that kind of ceremony, I'll send you a format for that if you like, [also crash-helmets-jackets etc.] even offer to hang their colours in the Church [like the military used to do in Cathedrals] as they are benefactors. You may quote me, I am an honorary member of Elagabalus M C in Adelaide S. Aust. also Kwinana Womens M C in Adelaide. So, it is not unusual for M C C to involve with M c. groups. Good luck, and let me know how it goes.

Exhorter programme will be very much appreciated thanks. David, my spouse sends his love and the Church sends all of theirs; I love you a lot, and pray for your Ministry, and for the Lord to continue to guide you. My love too for Providence and hope things continue to prosper.

In Christ's Great Love,

J. Star



REV. C. SHAWN FARRELL
241 WHEELER STREET
AKRON, OHIO 44304

April 13, 1978

Rev. Marge Ragona
P.O.Box 1462
Providence, R.I. 02901

Dear Marge,
In the name of our Lord, peace and joy.

Thank you so much for your letter, and be assured that all is well with me. God has been and continues to be infinitely good in all things. Although there is some pain that UFMCC disagrees with what I am doing, I know without reservation that I am where I am supposed to be at this point in time. My personal anguish lies in the possibility of them taking my credentials, but my commitment was, and still is, to God first, to the Fellowship second. The Scripture tells me "Feed my sheep", without reference to the fact that the sheep must be in the fold or of one fold.

For eight years I have served the Fellowship faithfully, following what I knew to be my Master's leading, and I am still endeavoring to do just that. I'm not some "crazy" who ran around making trouble those eight years, and yet it seems as if they have been erased. Judgement is passed because I could not sit 1200 miles away from people in pain and take no affirmative action in their behalf.

I have submitted to my ministry as I believe God has called me to do. I do not, now, understand the reason for the pain and turmoil, but my faith tells me that in God's good time I will understand. I serve Christ who lives in today, and leave the tomorrows in God's hands. I ask only that those who disagree with my actions follow the advice given by Gamaliel in the 5th chapter of Acts. If this is of God, it will prosper and grow, if it is not--and I have been mislead--then it will die a natural death without the judgement of others--for only God knows the future. Tell me, Marge, if you were confronted with a decision, feeling in your heart and with all your being that you were to go in a specific direction--and the people around you kept telling you that it was wrong--if you prayed and prayed and kept getting the same answer----whose voice would you listen to--what would you do? Sometimes things and people we love do not understand when God sets a task before us. Does that mean we can let the task go rather than lose position or friends?

I thank you for your love and your prayers. I pray God's continued blessings for you and your ministry, and I uphold the Fellowship in prayer that the wisdom of the Holy Spirit will guide those in human authority in compassion for the pain of those whom they have abandoned. God keep you, my sister, and may the Living Christ light your path.

In Christian love and service,

Shawn

November 10, 1977

Rev. Elder Freda Smith
Sacramento MCC
P.O. Box 5282
Sacramento, Calif. 95817

Dear Freda:

Forgive the fancy stationary, but MCC Providence is on an austerity budget, and until we get our debts paid, it is what we are using.

I received via mail today your Congregational Meeting statement, and was particularly interested in the section pertaining to Exhorters. As you are probably aware, I am very interested in exhortership programs and the professional qualifications for MCC ministers. I am impressed by and hope to use some of the suggestions in your bylaw revision concerning exhorters.

It reminded me, also, of a list of promises you used to have your exhorters sign (do you still use it?), which you showed us when you were visiting in N.Y. some time back. I believe it was during the visit that I chewed you out for coming East and telling us how to run our lives -- forgive it, I was new to MCC and didn't know any better. I'd give an arm and a leg to have you come East and tell us how to do it -- successfully. If you have a copy of that exhorter promissory note, I would love to have a copy. Our exhorters seem to think we are slave-drivers. I need something to show them how easy they have it!!

As you may note from the above, I have become the "interim pastor" of MCC Providence. We are trying to get back on our feet after a rather bad time of it emotionally and financially -- under other leadership -- and I think we are doing quite well under the current regime. Ed Hougen (our new District Coordinator since the Northeast/MidAtlantic division of the district) was over last Sunday and installed me here. We look forward to re-chartering next summer, when we should have sufficient membership and financial support. Our offerings are up, our people are more confident, the community seems to have more trust in us, and the church seems more 'together.' I hope we can continue this way. We are paying off our bills -- have paid off some \$200.00 left owing the phone company by a previous pastor, and are working on our back tithes.

Again, thanks for the material on the exhorters -- if you have anything else that would be of value on that subject in a form that would not cause you extra trouble, I would appreciate it.

Best of love to you. God's blessing on your work, and on you personally. It seems forever until we will all see each other again.

In Christ,

November 10, 1977

Rev. Elder Freda Smith
Sacramento MOC
P.O. Box 2582
Sacramento, Calif. 95817

Dear Freda:

Forgive the fancy stationery, but MOC Providence is on an extremely tight budget, and until we get our debts paid, it is what we are using.

I received via mail today your Congressional Meeting statement, and was particularly interested in the section pertaining to exhorters. As you are probably aware, I am very interested in exhorter programs and the professional qualifications for MOC ministers. I am impressed by and hope to use some of the suggestions in your bylaw revision concerning exhorters.

It reminded me, also, of a list of promises you used to have your exhorters sign (do you still use it?), which you showed us when you were visiting in N.Y. some time back. I believe it was during the visit that I showed you our for coming East and telling us how to run our lives -- forgive it, I was new to MOC and didn't know any better. I'd give an arm and a leg to have you come East and tell us how to do it -- unsuccessfully. If you have a copy of that exhorter promissory note, I would love to have a copy. Our exhorters seem to think we are slave drivers. I need something to show them how easy they have it!

As you may note from the above, I have become the "interim pastor" of MOC Providence. We are trying to get back on our feet after a rather bad time of it emotionally and financially -- under other leadership -- and I think we are doing quite well under the current regime. Ed Hagen (our new District Coordinator since the Northeast/Midatlantic division of the district) was over last Sunday and installed me here. We look forward to re-chartering next summer, when we should have sufficient membership and financial support. Our offerings are up, our people are more confident, the community seems to have more trust in us, and the church seems more 'together'. I hope we can continue this way. We are paying off our bills -- have paid off some \$200.00 left owing the phone company by a previous pastor, and are working on our back tithe.

Again, thanks for the material on the exhorters -- if you have anything else that would be of value on that subject in a form that would not cause you extra trouble, I would appreciate it.

Best of love to you. God's blessing on your work, and on you personally. It seems forever until we will all see each other again.

In Christ,

January 6, 1977

Misses Ellie Arsenault &
Darlene Larsen
92 Bates Street
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

Dear Ellie and Darlene:

Thanks for your letter and I'm sorry it has taken me so long in answering it, but with the holidays I was so busy I just couldn't keep up with correspondence. We wondered what had become of you both, since you had seemed to be so happy to find M.CC.

Things are going very well. We had a good Christmas, especially since one of the men's groups, the Falcons, gave the children some very nice presents. We had a children's party Christmas eve, then a buffet and wound up with a Christmas eve service. Had about 48 people here at the chapel for that.

We have put a note in our church bulletin asking if anyone comes in from Pawtucket and will be able to offer you a ride. I don't know if anyone lives out your way, but we are trying.

If you find it possible to get here, please feel your welcome has not worn out. We'd love to see you whenever you can come. Of course, any time you want to pick up the Holy Union counseling, that too is possible.

God bless you both, and I hope we see you again some time.

Love -- in Christ,

Marge Ragona

Ellie Arsenault
+
Darlene Larson
92 Bates Street
1st floor - Front
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

Dear Rev. Marge Hagons,

We're very sorry for not showing up, but our car broke down, so we decided to sell it this time. That car has only put us deeper in the hole since we bought it. With the money we got, which wasn't much, cause the transmission gave out, we paid our rent, and bought each other three Christmas gifts. However, we still want to get married, but I guess we will have to wait a bit, till we get our next car. My contract in Hollywood, for my songs, will soon be paid for, then for my first record out, I receive my first check. Then the first thing I'm going to do is, buy a new car, get married to Darlene, and we want to help you get the things you need. We feel that all gay people should help each other grow. Besides, I think you're a wonderful person, and I want to do something to help you.

Will you please keep in contact by mail at least, so we know your alright, and how things are going for you at home, and at your church? We will be waiting to hear from you soon as possible.

May God Be With You +
Hope You Have A Wonderful
Christmas + Happy New Year

Love from
Ellie M. Arsenault
+
Darlene Larson

NEWS

NOVEMBER 1977

Metropolitan Community Church

Bob Freeman-Jones

Worship Coordinator

Worship, Sundays 7pm

Grace Episcopal Church

819 Madison St. (at University Av.)

Syracuse, N.Y.

Mailing address and phone

116 Fairfield Av.

Syracuse, N.Y. 13207

315-478-5225

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND PLANS

MCC Syracuse plans a weekend of festivities to mark our first anniversary. We hope many friends will visit from surrounding upstate communities and other MCCs. The main event is the Saturday evening dinner and celebration--allowing plenty of time for guests to return home on Sunday. Housing can be arranged. Please fill out and return the registration blank by Nov. 15.

ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 7pm-12 midnight: Housing arrangements and directions for out of town guests. The Printers Devil, 389 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse. Phone 475-6857.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 9am-5pm: WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION. Sponsored by Syracuse University and supported by MCC. Registration: \$2.50, includes lunch. Mail registrations to Irene Baros-Johnson, Community House, 711 Comstock Av., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

5:30pm: MCC SPAGHETTI DINNER, about \$2.25, Grace Church, 819 Madison St., Syracuse.

7pm: ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Special guest preacher-MARGE RAGONA, pastor of MCC Providence, R.I. Reception following. Grace Church, 819 Madison St., Syracuse.

9pm: DISCO PARTY

SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 10am-1pm: MCC BRUNCH. Place to be announced. Afternoon: museum tours and informal socializing.

7pm: MCC SYRACUSE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AND SOCIAL HOUR. Grace Church, 819 Madison St., Syracuse.

1978 BUDGET AND RESOURCE SURVEY

A budget for 1978 and the rest of 1977 has been passed by the Board. They have also prepared a Resource Survey to access the needs, interests, and talents of our congregation. If you would like more information on the budget or survey call or write the church. We are asking both members and friends to make regular pledges to help support our growing program.

WOMEN TO PREACH

Two Syracuse University chaplains will be preaching at MCC Syracuse. On Sunday, Oct. 30, Irene Baros-Johnson will preach on "The Witch Within." Ms. Baros-Johnson is the Unitarian-Universalist intern at S.U. She is coordinating "WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION" on Dec. 3rd.

Rev. Betty Schiess will bring the message and celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday, Nov. 6. Rev. Schiess is an Episcopal priest and Chaplain-at-large at S.U. Rev. Schiess has long been active in human rights causes including the civil rights movement, the National Organization for Women, and the Onondaga County Human Rights Coalition. She is a Pastoral Consultant to MCC and on the Board of Directors of Gay Community Ministries.

BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly Bible study will be each Tuesday at 7pm in Community House, 711 Comstock Av., Syracuse. All are welcome to join us for an informal time of sharing strength and wisdom from the Bible. Bring your favorite translation.

FRESH FISH EVENTS

EVERY FRIDAY: Dance and Movement Group, 5:30pm, Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse.

Sat., Nov. 5, FRESH FISH GOES TO THE FESTIVAL OF NATIONS. Meet at the State St. entrance of the War Memorial, 6pm.

SAT., NOV. 19, TOUR MUNSON-WILLIAMS-PROCTER INSTITUTE in Utica.*
Leave Syracuse at 10am.

MON., NOV. 21, FRESH FISH THANKSGIVING TURKEY FEAST, 6:30pm.*

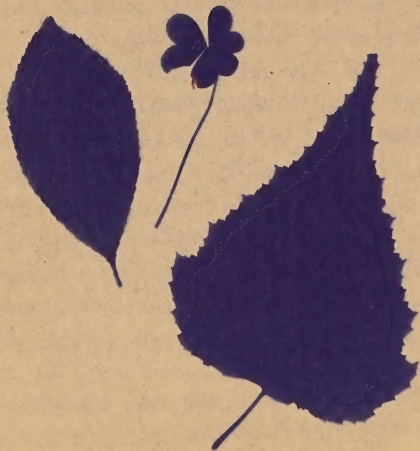
*For details call 478-5225.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Between Pentecost and Advent is a church season known as Trinity or Kingdomtide. It is a long season and the green color on the altar begins to become tiresome. A local clergyperson has come up with a new liturgical season which fills a need for his church. Since, he told us, his church year really begins with the end of Summer vacations, he marks the occasion with an orange altar cloth and stole. Orange was also chosen by the first women ordained to the priesthood as a new liturgical color.

DISTRICT NEWS

Eight people from Syracuse attended the MCC Northeast District Conference in Manhattan, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. The major decision of the conference was to divide the district in half. There is now a Midatlantic District and a Northeast District. The "new" North-



Sept. 1977

Dear Marge-

There were a few things
I wanted to share with you, and I
guess for me it's alot easier to put
things down in writing.

I first of all - felt badly that
I did not have more time to talk with
you, when you were last here for a visit -
it's so hard trying to plan time when
you make a short visit like that -
but I did want to tell you how much
I really enjoyed meeting with you
and sharing a service with you -
I really liked your message - Peanuts
and all.

I'm going into my third week
of ministry at my church here - I am
really beginning to get in touch with
what it's all about - the good & the bad!

✓ sense people are really res-
ponding to my message - especially
the youth. ✓ see so many possibilities
for growth in that church that I'm
excited about -

Sametime when you came
down. I would like to have you
stop in for a service. Michael did
not come the first Sunday - I'm afraid
he was a little bent out of shape
about that - but it just seems as
though he needed to realize that his
coming poses a real dilemma for me
because I do have to deal with the
congregation's reactions to visitors -
I do plan on inviting him sometimes
during the year.

This stationery I am using was
made by one of the women of a Holy
Union I helped perform with Michael -
I really love it → over

You know I really look forward
to you coming down this fall if it
all works out that way. I also hope
we can share times together during
the year.

This must be a really hectic time
for you - finishing things up at Boston
and all - if you need help moving
or anything please let me know -
I know what a hassle it can be to
move!

So, from one sister in Christ
to another I wish the best of luck to
you here.

Grace & peace,

Jody Skiles

January 5, 1977

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell
Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas
2701 Reagan
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Shawn:

It may seem impossible to say that I have just gotten around to answering a kind letter I received from you in August just after General Conference, but that is generally true.

The months since Conference have been a time of great change in my life. When I returned, I was elected Assistant Pastor at Boston, entered Harvard University (working toward a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Religion), and did some guest preaching. One of the places I guested at was Providence.

Shortly after that, I heard that Rev. Steve LaFever was leaving here, knew that this church had been undergoing hardships, and felt that the Lord was leading me to a pastorate here.

I had an opportunity to help this church heal a breach between it and Rev. LaFever, and regretfully announced my resignation to the Boston congregation. I was installed by Rev. Edward Hogen (N.E. District Coordinator) as Interim Pastor here on November 1, 1977.

I have been here since. My lover, Jean Gralley, has remained in Boston because of job responsibilities and her enrollment at Harvard. My oldest son has joined me here -- and was hit by a car as soon as he arrived. He is doing well, healing and was not hurt seriously.

At any rate, please excuse my not having thanked you sooner for your kind note. I do appreciate your thoughts, and hunger for your prayers. Keep Providence in mind from time to time, since our needs are great. We have barely 25 members, but those 25 members have 24 children among them, and we are mainly people in very moderate circumstances. Our needs are many.

I too wish you well. It was a pleasure meeting you this summer. I have been a fan of yours since your "Moses" sermon at Conference in 1976.

January 2, 1977

Rev. C. Shawn Barrell
Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas
2701 Reagan
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Shawn:

It may seem impossible to say that I have just gotten around to answering a kind letter I received from you in August just after General Conference, but that is generally true.

The months since Conference have been a time of great change in my life. When I returned, I was elected Assistant Pastor at Boston, entered Harvard University (working toward a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Religion), and did some guest preaching. One of the places I guested at was Providence.

Shortly after that, I heard that Rev. Steve LaFever was leaving here, knew that this church had been undergoing hardships, and felt that the Lord was leading me to a pastorate here.

I had an opportunity to help this church deal a breach between it and Rev. LaFever, and respectfully announced my resignation to the Boston congregation. I was installed by Rev. Edward Houghton (W.F. District Coordinator) as Interim Pastor here on November 1, 1977.

I have been here since. My lover, Jean Grayley, has remained in Boston because of job responsibilities and her enrollment at Harvard. My oldest son has joined me here -- and was hit by a car as soon as he arrived. He is doing well, healing and was not hurt seriously.

At any rate, please excuse my not having thanked you sooner for your kind note. I do appreciate your thoughts, and hang on for your prayers. Keep Providence in mind from time to time, since our needs are great. We have barely 25 members, but those 25 members have 20 children among them, and we are mainly people in very moderate circumstances. Our needs are many.

I too wish you well. It was a pleasure meeting you this summer. I have been a fan of yours since your "Moses" sermon at Conference in 1976.



A CHURCH FOR
ALL PEOPLE
IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

2701 Reagan
Dallas, Texas 75219
214/526-6221

Rev. James C. Harris
Pastor

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell
Assistant Pastor

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS

Dallas, Texas
August 10, 1977

Rev. Marjorie Ragona
c/o MCC - Boston
131 Cambridge St.
Boston, Mass. 02114

Dear Marjorie,

Greetings in the name of Christ, Redeemer and Liberator!

Congratulations on your licensure to the ministry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. I extend a loving welcome to you as one who made the pilgrimage.

Believing, as a minister and a member of the Credentials Committee, that part of my responsibility is concern for and support of the ministers of our fellowship, I ask that you contact me if I can be of service or assistance to you. We are called to a great task, and sharing always makes the journey more pleasant.

I pray God's continued blessings for you and your ministry.

In Christian Service,

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell

CSF/11

January 31, 1978

Rev. Jay Neely
3231 F Buford Highway, NE
Atlanta, Ga. 30329

Dear Jay:

I saw in a recent Atlanta newsletter that you had surfaced and were once again involved in MCC as a minister. I shouted "Hallelujah!".

As you can see from the above, this is where the Lord has led, and like Abraham I have followed -- not knowing what the Lord has had in mind. I spent a year at Boston -- a very good year. I have been here since October. We are doing well after a very bad period for this church, and are growing and solidifying.

I'm glad you're back with MCC. You're too good to waste! I miss you, and was glad to know where you were and are. This is just a note to say welcome back! I hope you get away to Eastern Ministers' Conference. I plan to be there and really look forward to seeing you again.

God bless -- God use you well. Put me on your mailing list, if you have one. I love you.

In Christ,

Marge

mfr

January 31, 1978

Rev. Jay Neely
3231 F. Buford Highway, NE
Atlanta, Ga. 30329

Dear Jay:

I saw in a recent Atlanta newspaper that you had surfaced and were once again involved in MOC as a minister. I shouted "Hallelujah!"

As you can see from the above, this is where the Lord has led, and like Abraham I have followed -- not knowing what the Lord has had in mind. I spent a year at Boston -- a very good year. I have been here since October. We're doing well after a very bad period for this church, and are growing and solidifying.

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God bless -- God use you well. Put me on your mailing list, if you have one. I love you.

In Christ,

Marge

WJR



GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
P.O. Box 2392 · Chicago, Illinois 60690

File

Pastor
Rev. Kenneth T. Martin

NEWS RELEASE

Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church, Chicago's charter church and one of the earliest to join the Fellowship, is announcing the resignation of The Reverend Kenneth T. Martin as the church's Pastor. At its December meeting, Good Shepherd's Board of Directors accepted Reverend Martin's resignation, effective January 1, 1978. In making the move, Reverend Martin stressed that he is not leaving the Fellowship, and will indeed remain as an active member of Good Shepherd parish while he pursues further education and writes a book.

Also at its December meeting, the Board of Directors appointed The Reverend Valerie Bouchard as its Acting Interim Pastor, to serve while the Board, acting as a pulpit committee, seeks to fill the Pastor's position permanently.

Reverend Martin's resignation ended his three-year tenure as Good Shepherd's Pastor, during which time the church's budget grew from \$19,899 per year in 1975 to a projected amount of over \$50,000 for 1978; during this same period the church's membership grew from 102 to its present 257.

Good Shepherd Parish is currently accepting applications and resumes from qualified ministers within the Fellowship.

- 30 -

March 26, 1978

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell
241 Wheeler Street
Akron, Ohio 44304

Dear Shawn:

After I received your letter from Akron I went to Eastern Ministers' Conference and heard something about what is going on there.

I just wanted to say to you personally that my prayers are with you for a Christian solution to the problem -- whatever it is. You're too good for God to waste -- or MCC either.

I return the favor you once extended me. If you ever need to talk or just need a friend and there is something I can do to help, please feel that you can call me.

I once preached to a congregation that I loved and that loved me on disappointment -- and the realization that no matter how much we wanted a thing, maybe God just wasn't ready for us to have it at that moment --and our time wasn't God's. It was the hardest sermon I have ever preached -- returning from Washington last year not licensed. But I found that I grew from that experience -- and I grew by not running away and by submitting to those who could see a bigger picture than I could at the time -- and by submitting to God's authority in my life.

It's hard to say to someone "Submit, but don't give up." The New Testament word "meekness" really means obedience. If we are truly obedient to God's will, we will inherit the earth. Maybe it's the only way we can claim that inheritance.

I love you, and I am praying for you.

In Christ --

Marge Ragona

mfr

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell
241 Wheeler St.
Akron, Ohio 44304
February 1, 1978

File

Rev. Marge Ragona
P.O.Box 1462
Providence, R.I. 02901

Dear Marge,
Greetings in the name of Christ, Redeemer and Liberator!

I really appreciate your taking time to write, for I know how hectic the day can be when you are striving to aid a small growing church. It sounds as if you have a mighty task before you, but I have learned God gives the BIG JOBS to those in whom there is the potential to solve the BIG JOBS. I so often think we view adversity as a negative, when in truth it is God's way of saying to us, "I have given you special talents, and I trust you to use them wisely. In doing this, you will turn this ~~task~~ task into a BLESSING!"

Jesus is the very best example we have of this divine trust, for in the life of the Christ was placed the task of humnity's return to oneness with the Creator, and most assuredly...God would only have assigned that task to One who was trusted to fulfill it.

So, my sister, God must love you especially well, for you have been called to serve a congregation whose need for pastoral love is great. Surely that must make you feel very blessed that God knows you are equal to the task before you.

I thank you for remembering "Moses", and it is my prayer that my sharing gives you strength and joy in your ministry.

I shall keep you and your congregation in my personal prayers, and know this above all else in life...WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

In Christian Love and Service,

Shawn

'Scuse the typing - as I type according
to the Scripture "Seek and ye shall find!"



South—Atlantic District

Post Office Box 22187

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

(615) 383-4106

January 5, 1978

File

MCC Knoxville
Post Office Box 2343
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

Attn: The Rev. F. Randall Hill, Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your petition for Mission Status dated 11 December 1977. It was received with great joy and I hope you can become a Mission soon.

In reviewing your budget for 1978, it is my opinion that you need to raise your pastor's salary to at least \$200.00 per month. The other figures look reasonable to me.

If you can raise your budget to approximately \$700.00 per month and maintain this figure for a minimum of three months, I will be more than happy to recommend that the Board of Home Missions makes you a Mission in May.

In Christ's Love,

Thomas S. Bigelow
Rev. Thomas S. Bigelow
District Co-ordinator

cc

TSB/jb

NOTE: This letter was received after pages 2 and 3 were printed. The Board of Directors will continue as is until mission status is granted. Our first anniversary celebration will continue on Feb. 19th even though as a study group instead of a mission.

The first two Sundays offerings in January has fallen way short of the requirements set forth by the district and was \$40-\$50. short of our weekly operation budget. Please be faithful!

Rev. Thomas S. Bigelow
District Co-ordinator

Rev. F. Randall Hill
Ass't District Co-ordinator

James W. Drew
Secretary/Treasurer

February 14, 1978

To the Ministers at Large,
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches:

Dear Reverend:

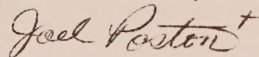
Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Liberator from the Pulpit Committee of Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, Riverside/San Bernardino, Calif. Our love and prayers be with you through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Our current Pastor, Rev. Deborah Gendron, has served God and Trinity exceedingly well since she became our spiritual leader, but now she has been called by God to do service elsewhere in establishing a new church for the Glory and Worship of our Lord. Thus, we wish to inform you of the vacancy in our pulpit which will be effective as of May 8, 1978.

A full time salaried position is offered the experienced Licensed or Ordained Minister whom is willing to take on the challenge for growth and the wonderful opportunity of serving the Lord in this area of approx. 400,000 population. Trinity has been established in the Inland Empire for almost six years and offers ministerial outreach and church activities in many areas. Our church budget is presently at \$25,000 per year and we own our church home.

We invite you to pray on these things and if you feel that God is calling you to this pulpit, your inquires and, or resume will be most welcomed. An indication of convenient dates for candidate interview would be appreciated as well as a picture of yourself which would enable us to match a face with the name.

Yours in Christ,



Joel Poston, Clerk
Trinity M.C.C.
699 Rialto Ave.
San Bernardino, Calif
92410

JP

